

REMARKS

I. Status of Claims

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 are pending in this application, the independent claims being claims 1 and 9. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claim 6 is canceled.

II. Summary of The Official Action

In the Official Action, claims 1, 4, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as unpatentable over Applicants' disclosure at pages 2-3 of the specification ("Applicants' Admitted Prior Art" - "AAPA" (alleged)), in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,446,657 (Asaeda), and claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as unpatentable over AAPA and the Asaeda '657 patent, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,763,105 (Feeley).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections respectfully are requested in view of the following remarks.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Initially, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's renewed indication that the application contains allowable subject matter, that claim 9 is allowed, and that claim 6 is allowable over the prior art.

In this regard, without conceding the propriety of the rejections, and solely to advance prosecution of the present application to issue, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite the features of allowable dependent claim 6, and claim 6 has been canceled in favor thereof. No new matter has been added.

For the above reasons, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is allowable over the cited art.

Claims 2-5, 7 and 8 depend from claim 1 and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination

with base claim 1, and is believed allowable in its own right. Independent consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

IV. Conclusion

Applicants believe the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Office Action, and submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the claims and prompt allowance of the present application earnestly are solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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